

STORY 96.

HOW VIQAR-UL-MULK GAVE UP HIS POST BUT DID NOT NEGLECT HIS DUTY TO GOD.

NAWAB VIQAR-UL-MULK was in his last days secretary of the Aligarh College and was in the beginning employed as a reader to a District Magistrate who was an Englishman.

The Nawab was very regular in the performance of his religious duties and used to say his prayers at the appointed time without fail.

The noon prayer fell during the court time. Viqar-ul-Mulk never took the permission of the Magistrate, but used to go away at the fixed time. The Magistrate who was a sensible man and knew how honest his reader was never objected to his going away for half an hour because he was convinced that the man who did not neglect his duty to God would not neglect his duty to a man. But in course of time this Magistrate was transferred to some other district and another man came in his place.

Now this new man was rather hot-tempered and overbearing. On the very first day of his regime there was unpleasantness.

Viqur-ul-Mulk as usual went to say his prayers at the fixed time. When he came back the Magistrate asked him where he had gone. He replied that he had gone to say his prayer and as the time for the prayer was fixed he could not

put it off.

Upon this the Magistrate flew into rage and cried out that he would never allow this interference with office work.

The Nawab explained to him that he could not put off the prayer as the time for it was fixed, and the work of the office did not at all suffer this account, but the man would not listen. Upon this Viqar-ul-Mulk quietly wrote his resignation and handed it to him. When the other officials of the court came to know of the incident, they told the Magistrate what a valuable man he had lost. The Magistrate asked Viqar-ul-Mulk to take back his resignation. But he stuck to his decision and told him that he would not lose his independence on any consideration.